(b) The Govt. of India has been providing budgetary support to Bharat Gold Mines Limited which is primarily engaged in the production of Gold in the form of Plan loan, Non-plan loan and grant from National Renewal Fund (NRF) towards Voluntarily Retirement Schemes (VRS) during the last 3 years as per details indicated below:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Plan loan	Non-plan loan	Grant from N.R.F. towards V.R.S.	Total
1994-95	600	1400	650	2650
1995-96	600	1490	200	2290
1996-97	600	1400	500	2500

The amount proposed in 1997-98 (B.E.) in respect of BGML is Rs. 6 Crores (Plan), Rs. 10 Crores (Non-Plan) and Rs. 7.5 Crores (NRF Grant).

(c) and (d) The National Mineral Policy (NMP) 1993 encourages induction of foreign technology and foreign equity participation in exploration and mining of high value and scarce minerals which include Gold, Silver and Diamond.

Cases of Compensation Pending In Claim Tribunals

*568 SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of compensation relating to train accidents pending in various claim Tribunals across the country; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government for speedy disbursement of Claims of Passengers?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) Name of the Bench	No. of Accident Claim Cases Pending as on 1.5.97	
	Death	Injury
Delhi	25	7
Lucknow	48	17
Chandigarh	12	14
Gorakhpur	40	23
Jaipur	6	4
Madras	6	1
Secunderabad	69	12
Ernakulam	23	12
Bangalore	2	5
Bombay	6	3
Nagpur	6	5
Bhopal	15	13
Ahmedabad	11	2
Calcutta	10	10
Guwahati	13	5
Bhubaneswar	14	6
Patna	85	14
	391	153

(b) Following steps are being taken for speedy disposal of claims of passengers:-

I. Administrative Action:

(i) Instructions have been issued to all zonal railways that as soon as as a passenger train accident or untoward incident takes place, all particulars of injured and killed may be obtained, claim application forms sent to claimants, and the record should also be made available to the concerned bench of Railway Claims Tribunal.

(ii) When claims are filed and put up for hearing, the railways should give all possible assistance to the tribunal for speedy settlement.

(iii) Written statements are to be filed by the railways in such cases within 30 days after receipt of notice from RCT.

(iv) Chief Claims Officers have been empowered to sanction decreed amount upto Rs. 2 lakhs without prior finance concurrence.

(v) After the decreetal amount of claim has been sanctioned, railways have to ensure that cheques are issued and despatched within a period of 15 days.

II. Action by the Tribunal

(i) Top priority is given to the disposal of accident claims cases.

(ii) Circuit benches are held from time to time at stations other than headquarters of the bench for convenience of claimants;

(iii) Members from one bench are deputed to other benches whenever required due to non-availability of a member at that bench;

(iv) Requests of claimants are allowed for transfer of cases from one bench to the other near to their residence for their convenience.

(v) Adjournments are not ordinarily granted to the parties.